REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 12, 15-19, 22, 28, 29, 35, 36, 42, 43, and 49 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 15-18 are independent claims. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 15-18 are amended. Support for the amendments may be found at least at paragraph [0116] of the published application, as well as Figs. 5A, 11A, 17-19 and the accompanying text. Thus, no new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants again respectfully request acknowledgement of receipt and consideration of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 9, 2009 and December 12, 2009.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 15-19, 22, 25, 28, 29, 32, 35, 36, 39, 42, 43, 46 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,385,389 to Maruyama et al. ("Maruyama") in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0046371 to Ando et al. ("Ando"). Claims 6, 25, 32, 39, and 46 were previously cancelled and therefore the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of the remaining pending claims is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 17 are amended to recite "the at least one playitem indicating an in-point and an out-point that point to positions on a time axis of the first stream file for reproducing one still image when one still image is included between the in-point and the out-point and for reproducing a plurality of still images when a plurality of still images are included between the in-point and the out-point" (emphasis added). Independent claims 16 and 18 are similarly amended to recite "the at least one playitem indicating an in-point and an out-point that point to positions on

a time axis of the first stream file for reproducing <u>one still image when one still image</u> <u>is included between the in-point and the out-point and for reproducing a plurality of</u> <u>still images when a plurality of still images are included between the in-point and the</u> <u>out-point</u>" (emphasis added).

In rejecting the claims, it is admitted in the Office Action that Maruyama fails to disclose or suggest "at least one playitem indicating an in-point and an out-point that point to positions on a time axis of the first stream file for reproducing the <u>at least one</u> <u>still image</u>." In an effort to overcome the admitted deficiency, it is alleged that Ando discloses the claim feature and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Maruyama according to the teachings of Ando. However, Ando fails to disclose or suggest the feature as recited in the amended claims.

In Ando all still pictures are recorded together in a still picture object file AR_STILL.ARO 213 ((f) of FIG. 10) in units of still picture VOB groups (ASVU in (f) of FIG. 10 or in (e) of FIG. 10) #1 to #g, and management information of <u>each still picture</u> is recorded in a still picture VOB entry ((e) of FIG. 10) (ASVOB_ENT# 281 to 299) in still picture VOB group information (ASVUI #1/273 to ASVU #g/279 in (e) of FIG. 10). Cell information CI ((c) of FIG. 10) can refer to still picture VOB groups (ASVU in (e) and (f) of FIG. 10) via various entry points ((d) of FIG. 10) (paragraph [0181]). Thus, in Ando, the stream file storing still picture data is the AR_STILL.ARO file including ASVOB (see Fig. 36; paragraph [0439]).

Moreover, in Ando the ASVOB is <u>only one still picture</u>. For example, as shown in FIG. 36, each ASVU (here ASVU #2) of the AR STILL.ARO file is formed of one or more ASVOBs (here ASVOB #1 to #n). Each ASVOB (here ASVOB #2) includes a dummy pack, one or more video packs V_PCKs, and a logical block for MPEG_program_end_code. Only one dummy pack shall exist at the start of ASVOB. The dummy pack contains a system header and some additional information (such as

recording information consisting of ISRC code, copy control information, etc., not shown). The V_PCK complies with MPEG program stream and contains only an I-picture of MPEG video data followed by a sequence_end_code. Each ASVOB shall terminate with the logical block for MPEG_program_end_code (see paragraph [0440]).

Further, audio still video ASV is still picture data to be presented together with audio data by a video capable player (abbreviated as a VCAP). Audio still video object ASVOB is composed of only one still picture without a button (a visual item for a user selection), and audio still video unit ASVU is the collection of one or more (up to "99") ASVOBs (paragraph [0443]. Fig. 47 shows the ASVOB and related entry point information including the ASVOB_ENTN describing the entry number ASVOB of the entry point. Thus, Ando clearly discloses a still picture entry point reproducing information of <u>only one still picture</u>. As shown in Ando, one still picture entry point provides a start point and an end point of <u>only one</u> still picture. For example, producing three still pictures in Ando <u>would require three still picture entry points</u> that provide reproducing information designating when each of the still pictures must be reproduced.

Accordingly, Ando discloses an in-point and an out-point for <u>only one still picture</u>. Thus, Ando fails to disclose or suggest a playitem indicating an in-point and an out-point that point to positions on a time axis of the first stream file for reproducing <u>one still image when one still image is included between the in-point and the out-point and for reproducing a plurality of still images when a plurality of still images are included between the in-point and the out-point</u>.

In addition to the above distinctions, independent claims 1 and 15-18 are amended to further recite that the at least one playitem includes first duration information and second duration information, <u>the first duration information indicating whether to display the at least one still image for one of a finite and an infinite period</u>

of time, the second duration information indicating a duration for displaying the at least one still image.

In rejecting the claims, it is alleged in the Office Action that Ando discloses "duration information indicating a duration for displaying the at least one still image." Specifically, it is alleged in the Office Action that Figs. 6A, 7-10, 12, 28A, 28B and 43-48 show at least one playitem further includes duration information indicating a duration for displaying the at least one still image. However, as indicated in the figures and discussed in the accompanying text of Ando, only end-points are disclosed. There is nothing in Ando to indicate duration information as defined in the amended claims.

Finally, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest that the at least one sub-playitem further includes first sync information and second sync information, the first sync information indicating a playitem associated with the at least one sub-playitem, the second sync information indicating a presentation time in the playitem indicated by the first sync information, the presentation time being that the at least one sub-playitem's presentation is started, as in the amended claims.

As the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.
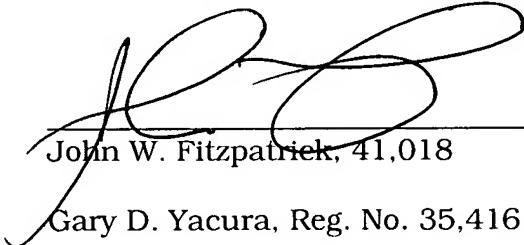
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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